

Chas SANDBACH URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1903.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to lay my fourth Annual Report before you and taking into account the general inclemency of the weather the health of the District has been fairly good.

Physical Feature and General Character of the District.

Sandbach is a healthy town on a sandy soil. Area 2693 acres and population 5,556.

Death Rate.

The death rate this year is higher than last year, due no doubt to the weather. There have been 90 deaths, making an average of 16.19 as compared with 66 last year, average 11.8 per 1000. Of these 90 deaths 18 were of children under 1 year of age.

Birth Rate.

Is much higher than usual. There have been 170 births this year as compared with 137 last year. The different sexes of this year's births are 78 boys and 92 girls, last year 137 births, 70 boys and 67 girls.

House Accommodation for Working Classes, &c.

This is very good and those inhabited are in good repair with clean surroundings and plenty of air space.

New Houses.

Two new houses have been erected during the year, both on the water and sewer line and have been connected with both

Lodging Houses.

All have been inspected and found clean and healthy, not overcrowded and the walls and ceilings kept well whitewashed.

Slaughter Houses.

These have been inspected by Mr. Wood and myself and found very clean and in good order, but personally I am an advocate for a Common Slaughter House and a Common offal heap which could be kept well lined and prevent any smell in hot weather.

The Water Supply.

Is derived from an upland source and treated by Clarke's process. It is very pure and both in quantity and quality would be hard to find fault with.

Sanitary Alterations.

There have not been any necessary, but all nuisances under that heading have been duly attended to.

Sewage Question.

I am sorry to say that the Scheme for the disposal of Sewage submitted to the Local Government Board by Mr. Burslem has not been sanctioned by the Board, but I have no doubt that before long another Scheme will be submitted to them.

Nuisances.

Have been attended to at once and I am glad to say there have been very few.

Ashpits and Closets.

These are emptied by the Council's own men and carts systematically, and on application being made to the Sanitary Inspector, and I have received no complaints on this whatever. I am glad to say that some of the newer houses are being fitted with water closets.

Dairies and Milkshops.

Most of the milk of the district is sold directly to Milk Factories. What is used for consumption in the Town, is got direct from the Farmers and delivered. The milk is good and the vessels are clean.

Cowsheds,

Have been visited and found to be clean and whitewashed and attended to, as also the ventilation.

Factories and Workshops.

I have many opportunities of visiting these as Certifying Factory Surgeon and have found them all well whitewashed, clean and well ventilated. Suitable exits in case of fire and privy accommodation good, workshops are satisfactory both as to cleanliness and air space.

New Workshops.

None.

Bakehouses.

Have been visited and found well ventilated and clean and none underground.

Infectious Disease.

During the year there have been 12 cases of Infectious Disease reported to me viz :— Typhoid Fever 2, Diphtheria 3, Scarlet Fever 7. All of the cases ended in recovery. Disinfectants were supplied to and disinfection carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Isolation Hospital.

The conjoint authorities *e.g.* Congleton Rural, Congleton Borough, Alsager Urban, Biddulph Urban and Sandbach Urban Councils have applied to the Local Government Board for sanction to raise money to build a conjoint Isolation Hospital for Infectious Disease occurring in these Districts.

Smallpox Hospital.

Is in good working order with plenty of accommodation should any emergency arise.

Anthrax.

Three cases of Anthrax were reported to me by the Police. All the bodies were at once cremated and the infected places well covered with lime, which I am glad to say arrested any progress of the disease.

School Closure.

In consequence of a severe Epidemic of measles at Wheelock Wesleyan School in June and it being near holiday time the usual steps were taken at my suggestion and the School closed for a period of 21 days, which, with the time added by the holidays, stamped out the epidemic and I am glad to say there has been no other epidemic of any sort.

Meat Inspection.

Meat has been inspected but none of an unsound nature has been detected.

Child Labour.

I have been asked by the County Medical Officer for a list of the people employing child labour but does not come under the Factory Act. The list has been sent in and although in our District I do not think there are any cases of cruelty to children under this heading, still one cannot help seeing that it will do a great deal of good and be a very great protection to many children in large towns.

Yours faithfully,

R. RIDDELL.

Sandbach Urban District.



Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards.
Small-pox							
Measles	2	1	1				
Scarlet Fever							
Whooping Cough	2	2					
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ...							
Croup							
Fever { Typhus							
Fever { Enteric							
Fever { Other continued							
Epidemic Influenza	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cholera							
Plague							
Diarrhoea	1	1					
Enteritis							
Puerperal Fever							
Erysipelas							
Other Septic Diseases							
Phthisis	11	...	...	...	3	7	1
Other Tubercular Diseases	2	1	1				
Cancer, Malignant Disease	3	...	...	...	...	3	
Bronchitis	8	1	4	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia	6	1	...	...	...	2	3
Pleurisy							
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs							
Alcoholism	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Cirrhosis of Liver {							
Venereal Diseases							
Premature Birth	5	5					
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition							
Heart Diseases	8	...	..	1	...	3	4
Accidents							
Suicides							
Senile Decay	20	...	...	...	...	...	20
Cerebral Hemorrhage	9	...	..	...	...	6	3
All other causes	10	6	1	...	1	2	...
All causes	90	18	7	1	4	24	36

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

During the year the question of removal of house refuse has been carefully considered by the Council. The mode of removal, by contract or by the Council's own teams, the type of closet, washout, pail or cesspools the mode of disposal and the total cost of clearing the Town of house refuse was thoroughly discussed. Enquiries were made from similar Authorities and comparisons made with our own system. Tenders were invited for the execution of the work, but in the end it was decided to continue our own mode of working as it seemed the cheapest and best.

Removal of House Refuse.

On an average two tubs per day of liquid manure have been moved, value £77 11s. 8d. Thirtyseven visits per day have been made for this purpose. Twelve visits per day have been made for ashes and 1831 loads have been moved.

Slaughter Houses.

These have been inspected and found clean and whitewashed as required by the Bye-laws. The garbage and offal being taken away from the premises.

Dairies and Milkshops.

These have been inspected and found clean and the vessels used in good order.

Workshops.

These have been visited and found in order, duly limewashed, well ventilated, and no case of over crowding discovered.

Lodging Houses.

These have been visited, the bedding inspected, the premises examined, and found in fair order, the bedding clean, the rooms limewashed, and the lodgers within the specified number and no case of infectious disease has been reported in them.

Empty Houses.

Happily there are fewer empty houses in the District than a year ago, 60 having been found at the last counting, many of these are small and inconvenient or are in undesirable places, and will only be occupied when a revival of Trade occurs.

New Houses.

Two new houses, both on the Sewer and Water main line, have been built and well fitted with modern sanitary appliances.

Water Supply.

This is most abundant and good, owing to the facilities given in the first instance the water was quickly taken, and all houses on the pipe line were supplied. Since then many houses where the existing supply was approved have applied for it, the Council's water being much better than well water.

Anthrax.

An outbreak of this dreaded disease occurred but was dealt with promptly and effectively by the Police. Two horses and one ass fell victims to the disease, but fortunately no further cases occurred. Quick lime was supplied by the Council for disinfecting purposes.

Sewage Disposal.

This is still an undecided question, either as to system or situation. The Local Government Board has had the plans of a scheme under consideration but have not yet approved.

Inspection of Meat.

This in conjunction with a local Committee has been continuously carried out, suspicious cases inquired into, but no meat unfit for food has been found.

Infectious Diseases.

These as reported have had attention, the sanitary arrangements inspected, refuse cleared away, defects remedied, carbolic powder for disinfection, lime for whitewashing and carbolic soap for cleaning down have been supplied by the Council.

Bakehouses.

These have been inspected, are lofty, well ventilated, good water supply, and none of them underground.

AMOS WOOD,

Sanitary Inspector.